

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please delete the original Abstract. Please amend the Abstract as follows. A substitute Abstract is attached herewith.

A pair of link arms ~~(19A and 20A)~~ each supported at one end thereof on an engine body ~~(1)~~ for swinging movement about an axis parallel to a rotational axis for a valve-operating cam ~~(16)~~ are connected at the other ends, for relative turning movement about an axis parallel to the rotational axis, directly to a rocker arm ~~(18A)~~ having a valve abutment ~~(15)~~ abutting against an engine valve ~~(6)~~ and a cam abutment ~~(17)~~ contacting with the valve-operating cam ~~(16)~~. At least any one of the link arms ~~(19A and 20A)~~ is swingably supported at one end thereof on the engine body ~~(1)~~ for continuous movement within a plane perpendicular to a rotational axis for the valve-operating cam ~~(16)~~. Such an arrangement ensures that a valve-operating system can be constructed compactly, and the opening lift amount of the engine valve can be changed continuously, while ensuring an excellent followability to the valve-operating cam.